

Message Text

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67

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 MC-02 ACDA-10 IO-11 /108 W

----- 034617

R 261600Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3713

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KINSAHASA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

UNCLAS ALGIERS 0178

DAKAR FOR DAO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, MO, SS

SUBJECT: SAHARA: POLISARIO ACTIVITIES, OAU CONFERENCE, FRENCH
CITIZENS INJURED

1. MILITARY SITUATION:

A. CASUALTY CLAIMS: POLISARIO COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED

HERE JAN. 23 ASSERTS THAT 152 MAURITANIANS HAVE BEEN KILLED
AND 32 CAPTURED ALONG WITH A QUANTITY OF ARMS AND WAR MATERIEL
IN BATTLE BETWEEN POLISARIO AND MAURITANIAN FORCES AT AIN
BEN TILY. AT BIR MOGHREIN, POLISARIO CLAIMS TO HAVE INFLECTED
AS YET UNDERTERMINED NUMBER OF CASUALTIES ON MAURITANIANS.
TWO MAURITANIAN CONVOYS SENT TO REINFORCE EMBATTLED
GARRISONS AT AIN BEN TILY AND BIR MOGHREIN SAID TO HAVE BEEN
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ATTACHED. RESULT, ACCORDING TO COMMUNIQUE, WAS 56 MAURITANIANS

DEAD, 8 TRUCKS DESTROYED AND OTHER MATERIEL CAPTURED.

B. MOROCCAN F-5 SHOT DOWN: ALGERIAN PRESS JAN. 26
REPORTED WITHOUT FANFARE MOROCCAN INFORMATION MINISTER'S
ANNOUNCEMENT THAT MOROCCAN AIR FORCE F-5 HAD BEEN SHOT
DOWN NEAR AIN BEN TILY AND THAT ITS PILOT HAD BEEN KILLED.
POLISARIO COMMUNIQUE ABOVE MENTIONED CLAIMS THAT 29
MOROCCAN PLANES HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN AND PILOTS CAPTURED
AFTER NOUAKCHOTT HAD APPEALED TO MOROCCANS ON JAN. 21
FOR AIR SUPPORT IN AIN BEN TILY REGION.

2. OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE SUPPORTS POLISARIO: ALGERIAN
PRESS SERVICE (APS) REPORTS FROM LOURENCO MARQUES THAT
26TH SESSION OF OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED TO
NEXT SESSION OF OAU MINISTERIAL COUNCIL THAT POLISARIO
RECEIVE OAU RECOGNITION. ACCORDING APS, RECOMMENDATION
READS: "SINCE FRONT POLISARIO CONSTITUTES SOLE
LEGITIMATE LIBERATION UNIT IN SO-CALLED SPANISH SAHARA
WHICH IS FIGHTING FOR INDEPENDENCE IN THIS TERRITORY,
COMMITTEE HAS DECIDED TO RECOMMEND TO NEXT SESSION OF
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS THAT FRONT POLISARIO MOVEMENT BE
RECOGNIZED BY OAU." SENEGAL AND ZAIRE, ACCORDING TO APS,
OPPOSED FOREGOING DECISION, AND CAMEROON AND EGYPTIAN
DELEGATES "EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS."

3. FRENCH TOURISTS INJURED BY MINE IN SOUTHERN MOROCCO:
JAN. 26 PRESS REPORTS THAT FIVE PERSONS IN A PARTY OF
FRENCH TOURISTS VISITING AKKA REGION IN SOUTHERN
MOROCCO LAST WEEK WERE INJURED WHEN THEIR LAND ROVER
STRUCK A LAND MINE. INCIDENT TOOK PLACE NEAR VILLAGE OF
AIT-OUABELLI. ONE OF THOSE INJURED WAS A 24-YEAR OLD
FRENCH STUDENT, MARC SCHOEPFER, WHO WAS HOSPITALIZED IN
STRASBOURG WITH MULTIPLE LEG FRACTURES. ACCORDING TO
MRS. SCHOEPFER, TOURISTS WERE FORCED TO WAIT 24 HOURS
AFTER INCIDENT BEFORE MOROCCAN MILITARY JEEP REACHED
THEM BECAUSE HELICOPTER PILOTS REFUSED TO LAND AT NIGHT
IN REGION FOR FEAR OF BEING ATTACKED BY POLISARIO.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST EMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES
CABLE US FLL TEXT OF ANY RESOLUTION OAU LIBERATION
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COMMITTEE MAY HAVE PASSED ON SAHARA QUESTION.LYNE

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NNN

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